





Meteor Heraut
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Around USAG Benelux Benelux

April Sexual Assault Awareness month

By Carolyn Julien

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux is observing Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April as a mode to increase awareness regarding sexual assault issues, and to promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education.

Previously, April observances included Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child to increase awareness for children among military communities.

The Department of Defense theme for 2006 Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Sexual Assault Prevention Begins With You."

This theme serves to remind both military and civilian personnel that we can all play a role – as a leader, colleague, educator or friend - in sexual assault prevention. New DoD policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response seek to establish a climate of confidence where:

❑ All sexual assault victims are consistently treated with re

See **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, Page 2

USAG Schinnen



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

First Sgt. Jose Cruz Jr. (right) and 1st Sgt. David M. Williams (left) were honored during a change of duty ceremony March 16 in the Andre Bruls Sports Center, USAG Schinnen. During the ceremony, Cruz handed over his duties as first sergeant to Williams.



Belgian rings bell for children

PHOTOS: J.D. Hardesty

Forty six years ago, the two-year-old daughter of a Belgian pilot from the 7th Wing who died in a plane crash while practicing for the Chièvres Air Show dedicated the Chièvres Chapel bells.

Dominique Thys, the daughter of Belgian Air Force Lt. Mathieu Thys, rang the bell engraved with her name as part of the bell tower dedication March 23 on Caserne Daumerie.

Her first visit back to Daumerie since the original dedication of the bells in October 1960, the 48-year-old explained how it was still an honor to have the bell named after her in honor of all the children whose fathers died while serving at Chièvres Air Base.

The new bell tower was designed by Patrick Retour, an engineer with the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Directorate of Public Works.

Electronic rip-off

Pick pocket hits Shapian

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

A Shapian had his pocket picked without anyone touching his wallet.

Two unauthorized electronic transactions were reported this month to SHAPE Military and Belgian Federal Police though actual amounts of the cyber-pilfer were not reported.

The incident is being investigated.

The electronic thief who manipulated merchant numbers and other transaction information, "had me questioning everything with my account," said Craig Larsen from the SHAPE Morale, Welfare and Recreation office. "No one knows how it was done."

What may appear as a small problem is growing exponentially worldwide.

Computer-savvy criminals pillaged customer accounts and personal identification numbers from Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Washington Mutual, Citibank and other financial institutions by hacking into corporate databases. These same fiduciaries were reported forced to replace debit cards for hundreds of thousands of customers last year.

Previous consumer warnings indicate

criminals have used "a false slot" inserted into an automated teller machine (ATM) capable of reading and storing both sides of a debit or credit card account and security numbers.

Armed with debit card PINs and account numbers, for the first time thieves have a direct route to cash. When crooks use stolen credit cards, they have to buy goods, and then fence them to get cash.

Debit card fraud has already costing banks \$2.75 billion and affecting 3 million people a year. So far, cardholders haven't been stuck with much of the losses because banks replace stolen funds 90 percent of the time. But the latest escalation opens the padlocks that banks — and the public — thought kept their money safe from thieves.

A few reports of identity theft and electronic pick pocketing have occurred in the Chièvres Garrison area in the past three years, said Wendy Van Houten, coordinator for the Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program (SNAP).

The problem is much larger than

just the Chièvres Garrison area.

An estimated 3.6 million U.S. households, or about three out of every 100, report being victims of identity theft, according to a Justice Department study.

Federal Trade Commission estimates indicate 9.3 million victims of crime during the last half of 2004 - the latest figures currently available.

An estimated 1.7 million households discovered unauthorized use of credit cards while 900,000 households reported experiencing a theft from other types of existing accounts to include debit-checking accounts.

New Jersey police arrested 14 suspects this month accused of using counterfeit cards to make fraudulent purchases and withdrawals from debit card accounts. Police say the suspects are tied to overseas criminal gangs.

Monitoring account information for uncharacteristic activity is one of the most potent weapons against fraud and safeguard against a thief sticking fingers into unauthorized accounts.

See **PICK POCKET**, Page 7



McKiernan Sends #8-06

April Sexual Assault Awareness Month

1. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This observance is dedicated to raising awareness of sexual violence and promoting ways to prevent it.

2. Sexual assault and the attitudes that contribute to it have no place in our Army and will not be tolerated. This violent crime is incompatible with the Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and our standards of discipline and professionalism. It also destroys morale and compromises unit combat readiness. Therefore, preventing sexual assault is everyone's responsibility and should be a top priority for commanders.

3. Sexual assault is the second most-reported felony in the Army in Europe. To help eliminate incidents of this crime, I want every commander and leader to educate Soldiers and civilians on ways to prevent sexual assault and how to help assault victims. Commanders must also create safe environments in which to live and work. As a minimum, commanders must—

□ Ensure that each Soldier and civilian receives scenario-based, small-group training each year on sexual assault prevention and response. This train-



General David D. McKiernan
CINC USAREUR

ing should concentrate on sexual assault prevention, risk-factor awareness, appropriate dating behavior, how to avoid becoming an offender or a victim, the correlation between sexual assault and alcohol abuse, restricted and unrestricted reporting options and procedures, victim care and support services, and the consequences of committing this crime. Most of all, leaders must ensure that Soldiers adhere to the Army Values and understand that sexual assault is an expression of hostility and aggression (a behavioral act) and that the victims are not at fault.

□ Respond to all allegations of sexual assault expeditiously,

verify that all incidents are investigated promptly and impartially, and ensure they are resolved quickly. Commanders are responsible for protecting and supporting victims. They must also take appropriate administrative or judicial actions based on the facts and circumstances of each case to hold offenders accountable. All leaders and Soldiers are responsible for reporting incidents of sexual assault to help victims and prevent offenders from assaulting someone else. They must also ensure that victims are aware of and have access to the numerous care and support services available in the Army in

Europe. These include chaplains, installation and unit victim advocates, law enforcement officials, medical professionals, sexual assault response coordinators (SARCs), and deployable SARCs.

□ Take proactive measures to provide a safe and healthy environment for those in their charge. These measures include providing an overview of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program to newly assigned Soldiers within 24 hours after their arrival, implementing stringent barracks policy to lower the risk of assault, increasing leadership presence in the barracks, improving the lighting in the barracks and parking lots, and insisting that entry doors remain locked.

□ Develop a strategic plan that incorporates all aspects of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. This plan should begin with procedures for prevention and advocacy, and end with actions for ensuring offenders are held accountable.

4. Each of us has a responsibility to eliminate sexual assault in the Army in Europe. We can do this by taking proactive measures and ensuring our Soldiers and civilians understand that No means No!

DAVID D. McKIERNAN
General, USA
Commanding

Sexual Assault *continued from page 1*

spect, fairness and dignity.

□ All offenders are held accountable for their negative actions.

□ Sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated.

Reported incidents of sexual assault in 2005 were up approximately 40 percent in the military from 2004.

It is believed that this significant increase in reports was partly due to DoD's relatively new Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program which offers two reporting options to active duty military: Restricted and Unrestricted Reporting.

Restricted reporting allows victims to confidentially receive medical treatment, counseling and victim advocacy services without automatically triggering a criminal investigation or involving their command.

This reporting option affords sexual assault victims greater autonomy over the release of their personal information, and provides them additional time to consider their options, and to decide whether or not to participate in a criminal investigation.

Unrestricted reporting allows victims to receive medical treatment, counseling, and other available support services.

The victim's command is also notified and an official investigation will ensue.

Regardless of which option is selected by victims, the

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and Unit Victim Advocate are available to provide victim advocacy services.

Services provided by the SARC and UVA include specific details regarding the reporting options, emotional support, referral services and

other program-related information.

Contact your USAG Benelux Army local representative for the Community Service Family Advocacy Program SARC in Brussels at DSN: 368-9668; in Schinnen at DSN: 360-7263; or in Chièvres at DSN: 423-7593 to

learn more about Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Events scheduled for the Chièvres Garrison area include:

April 1-28 - A Sexual Assault Logo Contest with entries due no later than April 18.

April 10 - Ribbon and information table from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Post Main Exchange on Chièvres Air Base.

April 13 - Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program Open House from noon to 1:30 p.m. with information, door prizes and refreshments. Also a Sexual Assault Defense Training course from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the SHAPE Event Center (fee).

April 19 - Ribbon and information table from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Post Main Exchange on Chièvres Air Base.

April 21 - Unit Victim Advocate Training, Module II, Class III from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 318 on SHAPE.

April 27 - Community training from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the SHAPE Entertainment Center.



DoD: Names new European rep

Department of Defense news release

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recently named Powell A. Moore as secretary of defense representative (SecDefRep) to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) succeeding Ambassador David R. Nicholas, who died while in office on March 13, 2005.

Moore will also serve as the SecDefRep to the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation; the Joint Consultative Group established by the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty; and the Open Skies Consultative Commission established by the Open Skies Treaty.

A native of Milledgeville, Ga. Moore, 68, he was commissioned as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army and served for more than three years with tours in Baumholder, Germany, and Fort



Powell A. Moore

Benning, Ga.

Moore has been active in public policy affairs in Washington for more than 39 years with service as assistant

secretary of state for legislative affairs under President Ronald Reagan; on the White House staff under Presidents Nixon, Ford and Reagan; and as chief of staff for former Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee.

He began his Washington career in 1966 on the staff of Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia.

Prior to his selection as SecDefRep, Moore served as managing director of Federal Government Relations for McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP beginning in February 2005.

He most recently served in government as the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs under Rumsfeld during the first term of President George W. Bush.

About the Meteor-Heraut

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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Deadlines

Commanders

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski USAG Benelux
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson USAG Schinnen
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Kilroy USAG Brussels
Lt. Col. John G. Romero Chièvres Garrison
Public Affairs officers and personnel
Marie-Lise Baneton USAG Benelux
Lauri Garcia USAG Schinnen
Thad Moyseowicz USAG Brussels
Cis Spook Chièvres Garrison
J.D. Hardesty Editor
LaDonna Davis Writer

USAG Benelux AT YOUR SERVICE



Alan Gent

Evaluator

Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office

How long are you working in U.S. Army Garrison Benelux?

"39 years"

What do you like about working in support of U.S. Army community?

"I like the work's diversity and the challenge of the U.S. laws and U.S. regulations."

What is the most difficult challenge working for U.S. Army?

"The most difficult thing is the management's changes (every two or three years) and the difference between the education and the experiences of the new people. Actually, the most difficult challenge is the adaptation to the reform."

How can Americans better understand the Belgian employees they work with?

"To communicate with their neighbors and hosts while adapting to the culture."

NOTE: The *Meteor-Heraut* is highlighting several of the dedicated Soldiers and civilians who provide service and support throughout the USAG Benelux footprint. Alan Gent, who started working for the U.S. Army about the

time SHAPE moved to Belgium, is the first person to be highlighted. To nominate workers from directorates or units across the garrison, email the person's name and phone number to meteor@benelux.army.mil.

Interactive Customer Evaluation

ICE lets customer voices be heard

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Interactive Customer Evaluation system (ICE) provides customer feedback - compliments, complaints or suggestions - to a Department of Defense organization.

The web-based feedback system is available to anyone, anywhere, with access to the Internet.

Simple to use, customers go to the ICE website <http://ice.disa.mil> and, with a few clicks of the mouse, find a location and give feedback about the quality of service received.



Visitors are invited to give their names but can remain anonymous.

Customers can request feedback by checking the 'response requested' block on their comment submission. If no name or address is provided, however, direct feedback to the customer is impossible.

The ICE program is an empowerment tool which provides important trend data enabling educated decisions about improvements of community life programs and issues for Soldiers, civilians and family members.

The USAG Benelux ICE program is managed by the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. For additional information, call DSN 361-5071.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
Apr. 10	Apr. 21	May 8	May 19	June 5	June 16	July 17	July 28
Apr. 24	May 5	May 22	June 2	July 3	July 14	July 31	Aug. 11

Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

Community Notes

Pet Essay Contest

The 79th Veterinary Detachment is holding an essay contest for students grades 3 through 8 in support of National Pet Week.

Cash prizes of \$25 will be awarded to the writers of winning essays.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has chosen "Fitness Unleashed" as this year's contest theme. Physical fitness is as important to pets as it is to people.

Essays must be original and between 30 and 250 words. Deadline for submission is May 4.

For more information on the essay theme and rules as well as entry forms contact the Veterinary Clinic on Caserne Daumerie (bldg. No. 70010) or call 361-5733.

Iron Shapian

The SHAPE Battalion is hosting an Iron Shapian contest April 28 at the SHAPE Main Gym. The competition includes push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, dips and a four-mile run. Call DSN: 423-3766 for more information.

Summer hire program

The Civilian Human Resources Agency, Europe (CHRA-E) is accepting applications for the 2006 Summer Hire program for jobs starting June 26 through Aug. 4.

Requirements: Summer Hire is open to family members between the ages of 14 and 22 years old.

□ Participants must be unmarried family members of an active military member or Department of Defense civilian who will turn age 14 by June 26, and cannot reach their 23rd birthday prior to the end of the program on Aug. 4.

□ Summer Hires for child development positions must be 16 years old.

Vacancies, a web-based application form, and instructions are available at www.chra.eur.army.mil through May 12, or send via email to Summerhire_Resumes@cpocur.army.mil or mail to: CHRA, CPOC Europe Region ATTN: Summer Hire Program Unit 29150 APO, AE 09100.

Eagle Scouts invited

The U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, is inviting all Eagle Scouts, both youth and adult, and their guests living in Charlemagne Boy Scout District for a reception at his home May 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. to honor all youth Eagles.

For more information, please call 361-5762 or email shapeav8r@earthlink.net.

Storage units construction complete

New buildings serve Benelux community



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Construction on the new storage buildings on Chièvres Air Base has been complete at a total cost of \$87,000. The 15 units, available for rent through the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, are in addition to inside storage units located at the Kennel. The cost of renting the outside facilities is \$30 per month, while inside storage rooms cost \$60 per month. For more information, call DSN 361-5436 or 0473-68-1381.

Law Center offers free tax service, e-filing

The Northern Law Center's (NLC) Tax Center offers free tax preparation and e-filing for all service members, DoD civilians, retirees and their dependents in the Chièvres Garrison area.

Opened earlier in the year, the Tax Center offers assistance with both federal and state income tax returns. And by e-filing, taxpayers will usually have their refund within 2 weeks.

The April 15 stateside filing deadline is extended for those serving in an overseas assignment to June 15.

The NLC Tax Center can be found at SHAPE in building 318, room 207.

The Tax Center is open through the end of June on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Most taxpayers will be seen on a walk-in basis, however an appointment may be necessary for more complicated tax issues.

Appointments are recommended for taxpayers with rental property, sales of stock/mutual funds, itemized deductions, foreign tax issues, or other complicated matters.

The NLC provides tax preparation to those in the Brussels area. Services will be provided by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays at USAG Brussels in building 4, room 329.

Taxpayers should bring the following with them to the Tax Center: ID card; W-2s and other income statements; Social Security cards for each person listed on the tax return; void check for direct deposit; copy of last year's tax return; if filing jointly, taxpayers should bring their spouse or a POA if the spouse is absent.

The Tax Center also has the necessary federal and state income tax forms and special powers of attorney to allow another person to file on behalf of the taxpayer.

For appointments, call DSN 423-4906 or Com. 065/44-4906.

Long-time employee remembered

A long-time employee of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux died after an illness.

Annie Plaitin, 57, of Lessines, Belgium, died March 25.

Better known as "Annie from PBO" to her colleagues, she worked for garrison at Chièvres Air Base for nearly 25 years as a supply technician at the Property Book Office, Supply and Services Division, Directorate of Public Works.

Her fellow workers expressed good

memories of her, describing her as very helpful, and, when she learned of her illness, kept up the same motivation for her work. Plaitin is survived by her son, Ronald Druart, her mother, a sister and brother, and her partner, Michel Bivert.

Her funeral was held March 31 at Church St-Roch in Lessines with interment in the Garden of Remembrance at the cemetery in Lessines. A remembrance service was held Wednesday at the Chièvres Chapel.



Annie Plaitin

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

Collaboration key to success

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Members from the Installation Management Agency-Europe met with U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen leadership here, March 23, to collaborate on how to improve Schinnen's facilities, off-site base support operations and to improve communication relationships between IMA-Europe staff and their garrison counterparts.

This visit marks the first time IMA-Euro leadership has visited the USAG Benelux's subordinate garrison which is located on Emma Mine Complex in Schinnen, The Netherlands.

"It is very difficult for IMA-Europe senior staff to disengage from the daily business in their headquarters (in Heidelberg, Germany)," said Lt. Col. Richard Richardson, the garrison's commander. "Opportunities for the staff to leave the headquarters and 'walk the ground' with subordinate units are both rare and extremely valuable. It is clear that our higher headquarters cares about us and our mission for they came to see it!"

During their visit, IMA-Europe staff was briefed on the garrison's tri-border mission, toured the Emma Mine Complex facilities with their subordinate counterparts and took a windshield tour of the off-site supported facilities.

As part of the IMA-Europe, the gar-



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Senior staff members from the Installation Management Agency-Europe are guided by Lt. Col. Richard Richardson, U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen commander (pointing), on a windshield tour March 23 of the garrison's supported facilities.

rison is dependent upon the agency for funding, staffing, building projects, and overall management of the base.

By having the European leadership of the Installation Management Agency meet face-to-face with the leadership of Schinnen, the two parties are able to gain a better understanding of what each party does and how they can work together to improve the quality of life facilities that are crucial to the well-being of the

Soldiers, families and civilians the garrison supports.

"We hope to improve the IMA-Europe and USAG Benelux staff understanding of our mission and challenges," said Richardson. "At the same time, by meeting with IMA-Europe we improved our understanding of the higher headquarters perspective, policy, and guidance. In short, this visit improved communication between both parties."

Motorcycle Safety



Spring into Summer

By Schinnen Safety Office

Winter's finally over.

The roads are snow and ice free, and the sun is bright and warm on your face. You've tuned up the bike and you're ready to hit the open highways and beautiful mountain passes, right.

Wrong! Now it's time for you to tune up as well. In an effort to decrease the number of motorcycle accidents and incidents that occur within the Schinnen community, the garrison has kicked off a motorcycle safety campaign that will run from April to October.

The campaign will consist of motorcycle training courses for beginners and experienced riders, motorcycle safety tips and safety articles to keep the community informed about the potential dangers of riding a motorcycle when not following the proper safety rules.

Look for upcoming motorcycle safety information in the *Meteor-Heraut*, USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News Notes and community emails.

Prayer brings tri-border community together

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Interracial and interfaith members of the tri-Border community came together in fellowship to worship during the International Prayer Luncheon held March 20 at the International Inn, Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Attendees of the luncheon were led by various religious leaders in scripture reading, prayer and the singing of traditional religious hymns.

As community members dined, guest speaker, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army deputy chief of chaplains, spoke about the importance of sacrifice to the international community made up of Dutch, Americans, Canadians, and British, civilians, Soldiers, and families.

"Sacrifice is the test of our character," said Carver. "It is a sacrifice of sorts to love God with all our mind, body, spirit, soul and strength. But I believe that for us to live at the pace which we are living in the 21st century, we need to find that place where we can worship God."



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Guest speaker, Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army deputy chief of chaplains, gives a sermon on sacrifice to an interracial and interfaith audience during the 2006 International Prayer Luncheon held March 20, at the International Inn, Brunssum, The Netherlands.

The traditional prayer gathering started in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a breakfast where government leaders and religious groups could talk over things of mu-

tual interest and cooperation. As time went by, the gathering got larger, and soon became the National Prayer Breakfast held annually by the president in Washington, D.C.

The tradition soon spread to the military, and today, at U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, an international prayer luncheon is held annually so members of the Tri-Border community of all faiths, nationalities and backgrounds can come together and praise.

"The tradition spread to the military as an opportunity for high profile religious leaders inside and outside the chaplaincy to stress the importance of religious values to the military and to our nation and emphasize the need for prayer - prayer for our leaders, prayer for the military and its members and its families," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott R. Borderud, Schinnen's chaplain. "In every military base, it's probably - other than Sunday morning worship service - the single most publicly visible event that involves chaplains."

"I do believe that history will say - as we look back - to you who have served and are serving; as we fight in this new type of war, this 'global war on terrorism' that you will be looked at people who knew how to sacrifice."

**USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community**

BAS celebrates International Night

By Thad Moyseowicz*USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer*

The Brussels American School (BAS) is one of the smaller Department of Defense Dependent Schools System (DoDDS) activities in Europe.

With a current kindergarten to high school enrollment of 334, it provides quality education for the children of U.S. DoD military and civilian personnel serving in Brussels, the vast majority of whom do so in a NATO-related capacity.

BAS and its sister DoDDS schools in the Benelux region are part of the relatively small number of DoDDS schools in the world that possess an active international component. Nearly one-sixth of BAS' current enrollment is international.

These children are allowed to attend BAS under different provisions of U.S. Department of Defense rules, and have done so for many years.

At present, 59 children with citizenship from 20 nations besides the U.S. are currently enrolled. In addition to giving BAS an international flavor, their presence mimics the world of their parents, who also are employed by their respective nations in NATO-related positions. The majority of these are children of families from NATO aspirant or Partnership for Peace countries.

The BAS Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO), has, for several years, sponsored an annual

celebration of the school's cosmopolitan makeup through its International Dinner and Show. This was most recently done on the evening of March 11th at the school; this year's theme was "A Night of World Travel."



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

Guests attending Brussels American School's International Dinner and Show March 11, select Belarus culinary items. Nearly 20 percent of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools enrollment is made up of children of parents employed in support of NATP-related positions.

In addition to bringing together all of the nationalities represented at BAS - parents and children - in a huge dinner with foods from the respective nations, the youth and their parents themselves provided

quality entertainment. The popularity of this annual event was manifested by the fact that tickets (almost 360) sold out during the first week they were offered. The evening had an additional important "international" link through the presence of honored guest

Francis Vermeiren, the mayor of Zaventem, the commune in which BAS is located.

Christine Gordon, PTSO president, explains: "Our International Dinner, is, first and foremost, how we stress BAS' international and multi-cultural character. But it's also an important PTSO fundraiser."

This year's dinner netted about \$4,800. All profits are plowed back into the BAS school community and will directly benefit BAS' students, families and faculty.

Gordon notes that funds generated from the dinner "will continue to be put forward towards multi-cultural enrichment activities, hosting school-wide events, funding classroom requests, and bequeathing senior scholarships."

Gordon was effusive in her praise for the small army of volunteers without whose help the event could not have been staged. "Co-chairs Kim Hennes

and Nikki Salada, in particular, provided the leadership and the coordination, but the PTSO is grateful to all who helped make this such a special event."

Brussels host inter-faith prayer breakfast

U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains presides as guest speaker for the nondenominational event

Story and photos by Thad Moyseowicz*USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer*

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver, the U.S. Army's deputy chief of chaplains, was principal guest speaker at an inter-faith prayer breakfast March 24, sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Brussels.

Carver has held the U.S. Army's deputy chief of chaplains position since September, 2005, and was in the Benelux area as part of a visit to Army units in Europe.



U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains (Brig. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver thanks Beth Bottesini, one of the Brussels community's youth religion education coordinators at the Inter-faith prayer breakfast March 24 at the 3-Star Lounge.



U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains (Brig. Gen.) Douglas L. Carver talks with U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos March 24 during USAG Brussels prayer breakfast at the 3-Star lounge.

Brussels Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Patrick Kilroy welcomed Carver to Brussels and introduced him to the audience. Kilroy noted that the audience was a made up of a true cross-section of the Brussels faith community, "from very junior - an Army Specialist - to very senior- U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos."

A large group, representing all U.S. armed services and U.S. agencies resident in Brussels, Belgian employees of the same, and other non-U.S. affiliated foreign nationals, gathered in the USAG 3-Star Lounge for a morning of fellowship, breakfast, prayer, and an address by Carver.

USAG Brussels Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth, noted the presence of "representatives of all major faith groups and denominations - Rull Gospel, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim."

Carver spoke on the theme of "sacrifice." Drawing from his own Army service, he provided stories about soldiers and the sacrifices they and their families continually make.

Prior to Carver's speaking, USAG Brussels Staff Sgt. Cortillian Andrews had read the Old Testament story about Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice. Carver interwove his personal experience narrative with the Abraham and other biblical accounts.

Carver joined with the garrison commander in personally thanking the many volunteers who had made the breakfast possible.

Pick Pocket *continued from page 1*

If you have Internet access to your bank, check your account frequently to watch for suspicious withdrawals. Look at paper statements.

According to Larsen, this wasn't the first financial loss he has had while serving the SHAPE community.

"My house robbed several years ago. When I walked and saw my home ransacked, I felt totally vulnerable and violated," he said. "All of those feelings came back when I discovered the fraudulent transactions."

Besides money, Larsen said the theft is stealing time away from him and his family as he uses vacation time to file reports with police and banking officials.

The actual financial loss from electronic pick pocketing may vary.

MasterCard advertises zero liability protection with debit cards, but in small print on its web site it does say there is no protection if money is stolen from your account using your PIN number.

Each credit or debit card company has different liability guidelines for account holders. Additionally, banks, credit unions and other fiduciary institutions may have company-specific liability limitations.

Although MasterCard may not provide protection, federal banking regulations do. *Regulation E* states, "If the consumer notifies the financial institution within two business days after learning of the loss or theft of the access device, the consumer's liability shall not exceed the lesser of \$50, or the amount of unauthorized transfers that occur before notice to the financial institution."

The key is the consumer can't be liable for any more than \$50 due to theft.

Debit card fraud took a serious turn for the worse this month after crooks stole hundreds of thousands of Personal Identification Numbers, or PIN, giving them access to ATM accounts across the nation.

VanHouten recommends the following steps for Shapians to protect themselves against identity theft:

□ Destroy private records and statements – Tear up or shred credit card statements, solicitations, bank statements, and other documents that contain your private information.

□ Secure your mail – Empty your locked mailbox daily, so criminals do not have a chance to snatch credit card pitches. Never mail outgoing bill payments and checks from home. They can be stolen from your mailbox and the payee's name erased with solvents. Mail them from the post office or another secure location.

□ Safeguard your Social Security number – Never carry your card with you. Do not put your number on your checks. It's the primary target for identity thieves because it gives them access to your credit report and bank accounts.

□ Don't leave a paper trail – never leave ATM, credit card, or gas station receipts behind.

□ Never let your credit card out of your sight – Worried about credit card skimming? Always keep an eye on your card or, when that's not possible,

pay with cash.

□ Know who you are dealing with – Whenever anyone contacts you asking for private identity or financial information, make no response other than to find out who they are, what company they represent and the reason for the call. If you think the request is legitimate, contact the company yourself and confirm what you were told before revealing any of your personal data.

□ Take your name off marketers' hit lists – Call the national Do-Not-Call registry (1-888-382-1222), you can also cut down on junk mail and opt out of credit card solicitations.

□ Be more defensive with personal information – Ask sales people and others if information such as Social Security or driver's license number are absolutely necessary. Ask anyone who does require your Social Security number – for instance, your insurance company – what their privacy policy is and whether you can arrange for the organization not to share your information with anyone else.

□ Monitor your credit report – obtain and thoroughly review your credit report (now available for free at <http://www.Annualcreditreport.com> or by calling 877-322-8228) at least once a year to look for any suspicious activity.

When checking your credit report make sure that only your current and previous addresses are listed. If you spot something, alert your credit card company(s), banking establishment, and the creditor. You may also want to subscribe to a credit protection service, which alerts you any time a change takes place with your credit report.

□ Review your credit card statements carefully – Make sure you recognize the merchants, locations and purchases listed before paying the bill. If you don't need or use department-store or bank-issued credit cards, consider closing the accounts.

What do you do if you become a victim of identity theft:

□ Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus:

◆ Equifax – To report fraud, call 1-800-525-6285 or write P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

◆ Experian – To report fraud, call 1-88-397-3742 or write P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

◆ TransUnion – To report fraud, call 1-800-680-7289 or write Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634

□ Contact the creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Speak with someone in the security or fraud department of each creditor, and follow up with a letter.

□ File a report with your local police (Chièvres Garrison, 068-27-5301; USAG Brussels, 027-17-9769; USAG Schinnen, 0469-443-7555) or the police in the community where the identity theft took place. Get a copy of the police report in case the bank, credit-card company or others need proof of the crime.

◆ Keep records of everything involved in your efforts to clear up fraud, including copies of written correspondence and records of telephone calls.



Northern Law Office

Belgian road tax assessed

Belgium imposes two taxes on vehicles – road tax and VAT/Customs. Road tax is assessed each year and is based on the type of vehicle. VAT/Customs is assessed whenever the vehicle's owner changes.

Under certain conditions, U.S. service members, civilians, and their dependents may be exempt from one or both taxes. Under Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Directive Number 100-2, one vehicle is exempt from road tax for each military member and civilian working full time for NATO or any NATO member's armed forces.

Personnel obliged to pay road tax will receive a Vehicle Registration Office notice through their supervisor or chain of command.

Under the "Implementing Administrative Arrangement for the Existing Vehicle Privileges," each military member and civilian working full time for SHAPE or any military body assimilated to SHAPE may register one vehicle exempt from VAT/Customs.

U.S. personnel may register an additional vehicle for their spouse and children free of VAT/Customs provided: the spouse/child is a dependent under Belgian law; the spouse/child reside with the sponsor; the spouse/child has no more than • 4,960 (if employed on SHAPE) or • 2,475 (if employed off SHAPE) of income, increased annually based on cost of living; the spouse/child has a valid drivers license recognized by Belgium.

For more information on Belgium vehicle taxes, please contact the Northern Law Center or Vehicle Registration Office.

PSC safe shipping of big screens, plasma televisions delicate

When shipping a plasma television, some manufacturers provide detailed instructions to ensure safe shipping.

These instructions can include costly, specialized crates and temperature controls during transportation. Some manufacturers may even recommend a professional media technician install and uninstall these televisions.

When PCSing, inform the transportation office you own a plasma television as some carriers may choose not to ship plasma televisions because of the constraints.

If possible, keep the original manufacturer's container and have it available or ensure the mover's shipping container meets the manufacturer's or carrier's specifications.

The maximum allowable limit by the claims regulation for plasma TVs (and projection TVs) in case of damage or loss during shipment is \$2,500.

Since the risk of damage during shipping is significant for these types of TVs, the claims office recommends plasma and projection TV owners purchase full replacement value or high value insurance to covered their household goods move.

For shipping information, contact the transportation office at DSN 423-4461. For claims information contact the claims office at the Northern Law Center DSN 423-4195.



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